REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 3-9 are pending in the application.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 1, and 3-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Morgan et al. (5,220,674).

According to the foregoing, the claims are amended, and, thus, the pending claims remain for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added.

REJECTIONS

The Office Action page 2, item 3 rejects claim 4 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for being indefinite.

Claim 4 is amended to traverse the indefiniteness rejection as follows:

> 4.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A client, comprising:
>
> a client-side device handler to receive input-output control for a client-side I/O device, from a server device driver ~~and~~through a server virtual I/O port in a server communicably connected with the client, and to transmit a client-side I/O device event to the server device driver through the server virtual I/O port.

Withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action page 3, item 6 rejects claims 1 and 3-9 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated or in the alternative under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Morgan (US Patent No. 5,220,674). Morgan is newly cited, and, thus, newly relied upon.

Morgan discusses a local area print server 10 (FIG. 1) for connection to a printer to form a printing system (Abstract). Morgan column 19, lines 8-19 discuss that the print server 10 in FIG. 1, has a driver 50 that "functions as an interface between the server job controller 10 and the printers 16a, 16b." However, Morgan's local area print server 10 uses a driver 50 to control a printer 16, which is a conventional configuration for a computer to control a printer via a print

driver installed at the computer, but in contrast the claimed present invention provides a server to control a "***client-side I/O device***" at a client. In other words, a prima facie of anticipation or obviousness cannot be established based upon Morgan, because Morgan fails to disclose, either expressly or inherently (fails to necessarily disclose) or to suggest to one skilled in the art to modify Morgan so that the print server 10 can control an I/O device connected to a printer 16. The claimed present invention differs from Morgan's printing system 17 shown in FIG. 1, because in contrast the claimed present invention as recited in amended for clarity independent claims 1, 3, 4, and 9, using claim 1 as an example, provides:

> 1.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A client/server system comprising:
>
> > a server, comprising:
> >
> > > software to generate operating instructions for a ~~client-side~~an I/O device connected to a client;
> > >
> > > a device driver to function at the server as a ***client-side device driver*** for input-output control ***of a client-side I/O port controlling the I/O device connected to the client as the client-side I/O device***, based on the operating instructions from the software; and
> > >
> > > a ***virtual I/O port to function at the server as a client-side I/O port interface to the device driver*** by transmitting ***an input-output control received from the device driver*** and ***informing the device driver of a received client-side I/O device*** event; and
> >
> > a ***client*** communicably connectable with the server and ***communicably connectable with the client-side I/O device***, the client comprising:
> >
> > > ***a client-side device handler to receive the input-output control from the virtual I/O port in the server*** and to transmit the client-side I/O device event to the server virtual I/O port, and
> > >
> > > ***a client-side I/O port to control the client-side I/O device*** according to an input-output control from the client-side device handler.

Morgan's device driver 50 controls the printer 16, but Morgan's device driver 50 fails to be for controlling "***a client-side I/O port controlling the I/O device connected to the client as the client-side I/O device***," because Morgan's printer 16 is not connectable to other I/O devices and Morgan's printer 16 does not have an I/O port to communicate to an I/O device connectable

to the printer 16. Further, Morgan's printer 16 as a client fails to disclose or suggest to one skilled in the art to be modified to provide the claimed present invention's "a **client** communicably **connectable with the server** and **communicably connectable with the client-side I/O device ... a client-side device handler ... and a client-side I/O port to control the client-side I/O device** according to an input-output control from the client-side device handler," because Morgan's printer 16 is not communicably connectable to other I/O devices.

In view of the claim amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the rejection of pending claims and allowance of pending claims is respectfully requested.
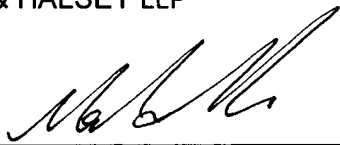
CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: July 20, 2006   By: _____
                                                 Mehdi D. Sheikerz
                                                 Registration No. 41,307

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1500

7